

CLARKE COUNTY ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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Very Important Things to Teach Your Puppy 5 to 12 weeks old is the most important period in a puppy's life

- Put a collar on at 6 weeks old. Start leash training at 6 weeks old.
- Start crate training at 6 weeks old.
- Start teaching puppy to go to the bathroom on command using key words such as “go outside” or “bathroom” at 6 weeks old.
- Take your puppy outside many times during the day especially after eating, remember to use key words and praise your puppy lavishly when they achieve success.
- Use training pads outside (not inside) to get the puppy into the routine of using the bathroom outside.
- Teach your puppy to open their mouth where you and others can put fingers in their mouth. Perform this procedure 10 or more times daily. Use key words like “open mouth”. Remember to praise lavishly when successful.
- Start using a child's toothbrush and doggie toothpaste to brush teeth 2 to 3 times weekly as of 6 weeks of age.
- Start socializing your puppy with adults, children, and other animals at 6 weeks old to get them accustomed to being around other people and animals.
- Take your puppy riding in the car often (not just to vet). Take them to McDonald's or the bank for treats to make riding in the car fun. Start at 6 weeks old.
- Teach your puppy to be involved in activities you like such as riding 4 wheelers, boats, motorcycles, planes, tractors etc at 6 weeks old.
- Start teaching standard commands such as “sit”, “stay”, “down”, “roll over” etc. at 6 weeks old.
- If you do not want your puppy on the furniture as an adult, do not let them on it as a puppy.
- Your puppy needs some sort of a bed. If you start your puppy out sleeping in their own bed they will sleep there their whole life.
- Do not allow puppies to chew on shoes unless you don't mind replacing shoes on a regular basis.
- Start as early as possible handling feet, ears, tail, and mouth also allow other people and kids to do the same.
- On long hair breeds, start grooming at 6 weeks old to get puppy accustomed to the sound of the clippers and the feel of the water.
- Use blow dryer after bathing to get them used to the noise.
- Start teaching your puppy to walk on slick floors at 6 weeks old.
- Take puppies on walks daily if possible they love it. Start at 9 to 12 weeks old.
- Start turning puppies on their backs and sides to get them accustomed to having their abdomen checked at 6 weeks old.
- Check on VPI insurance program. This program can help with some of the cost of a new puppy.
- Prevent “Food-Guarding”.